



Department of Justice

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PHARMACIST RECEIVES 36-MONTH SENTENCE FOR DEFRAUDING OHIO MEDICAID PROGRAM OF \$1 MILLION

COLUMBUS – Pharmacist Brian L. Martin, age 32, was sentenced in United States District Court here today to 36 months imprisonment for defrauding the Ohio Medicaid program by submitting “dummy” prescriptions from the Main Street Pharmacy he co-owned in Blanchester. Martin defrauded the Medicaid program out of slightly more than \$1 million and has paid restitution.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio and Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray announced the sentence handed down today by United States District Judge Edmund A. Sargus, Jr.

Martin was convicted of 21 counts of making health care false statements and 16 counts of health care fraud in September 2008 after a 10-day bench trial.

Martin forged prescriptions for drugs including Zyprexa, Zofian, Imitrex and routinely entered and submitted, or directed pharmacy technicians to routinely enter and submit, "dummy" prescriptions for these drugs and others into the Medicaid electronic billing system. Martin, a pharmacist, knew that the "dummy" prescriptions were never prescribed by physicians nor dispensed by the pharmacy.

Martin carried out the scheme between March 1, 2004 and September 14, 2005.

“The state has built many safeguards into the Medicaid program,” Lockhart said. “This sentence should serve as a deterrent to those who would cheat the system and remind them that criminal activity will be detected and prosecuted.”

“For many Americans, the Medicaid program is a critical safety net,” said Attorney General Cordray. “When a provider like Brian Martin defrauds the Medicaid program, it’s harmful not only to those in need but also to the honest health care providers and all taxpayers.”

Medicaid is a federal health care benefit program designed to provide medical services, equipment and supplies to the poor. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services supplies approximately 60 percent of the funding for the Ohio Medicaid program. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) administers the Medicaid program and pays claims submitted by health care providers.

Lockhart commended the investigation by the Ohio Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth Affeldt and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Keesha Mitchell with the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, who prosecuted the case.

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